

Selfridge Field,
Building #181 (Cold Storage Building)
Supply Street at Walnut Street
~~Harrison Township~~, Mt. Clemens Vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-AA

HAER
MICH
50-MTCLBY
1AA-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GREAT LAKES SYSTEMS OFFICE
1709 JACKSON STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
MICH
50-MTCLE.V
IAA-

SELFRIDGE FIELD, HAER No. MI-116-AA
BUILDING #181 (COLD STORAGE BUILDING)

Location:

Supply Street at Walnut Street
Selfridge Air National Guard Base
Mt. Clemens Vis., Macomb Co., MI

U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350670.4718980

Significance:

This building represents the functional structures erected on base as Selfridge expanded to address its Cold War training mission and was integral to providing daily food service to base personnel.

Description:

This building is a rectangular plan, 112 foot 8 inch by 60 foot, single-story, concrete block structure on a 6 1/2 inch concrete slab, shielded by a shallow-pitch, side-gabled roof covered in composition roofing and pierced by several large ventilators. All elevations are pierced by small louvered vents positioned near grade level. The principal (south) elevation consists of nine bays composed of seven integrated 13-foot-wide loading bays defined by steel posts flanked by a single window bay on the west and two steel sash window bays on the north. The west elevation consists of five bays defined by functional piercing pattern of steel sash windows and a steel pedestrian entry door at the northwest corner of the building. The gable profile is truncated by a drop to the lower roof covering the rank of bays comprising the loading dock. The fenestration of the north elevation consists solely of a single loading bay/truck platform flanked by a steel pedestrian entry door. The east elevation lacks any fenestration.

The floor plan centers on a Receiving and Issue Room that runs between the facade loading dock and the loading bay/truck platform on the opposite elevation. The 26 foot 4 inch wide rank of rooms east of this corridor is occupied by a 30 foot 8 inch freezer and a 13 foot 7 inch Fruit and Vegetable Cooler, while two offices and a latrine occupy the southeast corner of the building. Massive pine faced and stainless steel backed doors front on the cold storage units. The 30 foot 8 inch wide rank of rooms west of the Receiving corridor consist of a 24 foot Meat Cooler, a central 8 foot 7 inch Dairy Cooler and an 11 foot 9 inch Produce Cooler. The western most rank of rooms, 25 feet 1 inch wide, is occupied by a 12 foot 2 inch Receiving Room, a central 20 foot 5 inch Meat Cutting Room, and adjacent 11 foot 5 inch by 7 foot 9 inch Bank Room and an 11 foot 5 inch Holding Room, while the

Selfridge Field
Building #181,
(Cold Storage Building)
HAER No. MI-116-AA

pg. 2

rank of four 10-foot-wide rooms along the western wall of the building functioned as offices, latrine, storage and Meat Rendering Room. Processing rooms featured glazed tile walls and terra cotta tile floors. This floor plan survives intact.

History: This "Cold Storage Building" was built in 1960 from plans provided by Eberle M. Smith Associates, Detroit, to the Detroit District Corps of Engineers. It serves today as a generalized storage facility.

Sources: Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

Copy of construction drawing, dated August 6, 1958, Eberle M. Smith Associates, Inc., Detroit, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Floor Plan, Sheet 4 Drawing 33-04-03.

Copy of construction drawing, dated August 6, 1958, Eberle M. Smith Associates, Inc., Detroit, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Building Elevations, Sections, Sheet 6 Drawing 33-04-03.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.

Historian: William E. Rutter
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.
May, 1996